

Remarks

Applicant would like to respectfully point out that an article produced by the invention of the above-captioned application is not the same or obvious from the Zhao reference.

Zhao colors bulk polymeric material in a homogenous manner and subsequently molds the product. Specifically, Zhao states that “the coloring agent is introduced after the polymerization step and before the completion of the solid state procedure” (Column 2, Lines 54-58). Furthermore, Zhao clearly states that the coloring agent is introduced with pellets to create colored solid state polyester which is then subsequently molded. (Column 3, Lines 5-12)

In essence, Zhao mixes dyes with polymer pellets in a bulk process to create a homogeneous blend with the dye throughout the polymer.

The invention of the above-captioned application addresses a completely different process where preforms (for example, soda bottles) are colored after being formed. This is completely different from the process of coloring a mass of polymeric materials. As such, the practitioner of the above-captioned application could produce many preforms (bottles for example) having a relatively set form and only color what is needed or desired. Conversely, Zhao must choose what color the final product would be as the coloring comes before the shaping of the final product.

Additionally, the coloring effect is different between Zhao and the invention of the above captioned application. In Zhao, the coloring is added to a bulk

polymeric material in a homogeneous manner where with the invention of the above-captioned application, disperse dyes are used to wherein colorless preforms may be dipped to achieve a color. As stated in paragraph 62, “generally it will be the outside surface to which the colourant or additive is bound.” This is not what is taught by Zhao as Zhao only discloses a homogeneous manner of coloring prior to molding. A new claim has been added to further clarify and distinguish applicant’s invention.

Respectfully submitted,

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